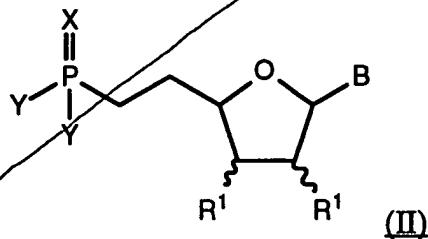


In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

7. (twice amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

[each] R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is [independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;]

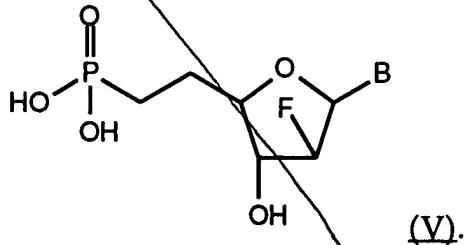
R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;

each Y is independently OR<sup>2</sup>, N(R<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, or SR<sup>2</sup> wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur[;

with the proviso that when X is oxygen and each Y is OH, R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is hydroxyl and R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl, then B is not guanine, thymine, cytosine, uracil or adenine and when R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is hydrogen, then B is not 5-fluorouracil].

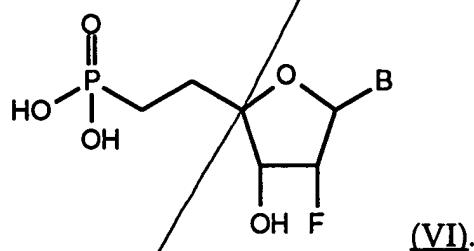
10. (twice amended) The compound of claim 7 having the formula (V):



*B3*

14. (twice amended) The compound of claim 7 having the formula

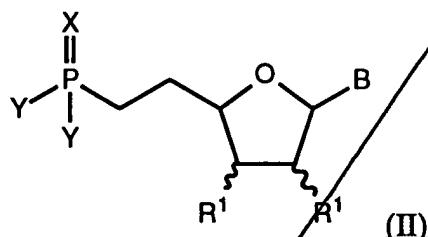
(VI):



(VI).

*B4*

20. (twice amended) A pharmaceutical composition useful for treatment of a viral infection [or malignant condition] which comprises an effective amount of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

[each] R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is [independently hydrogen, hydroxyl,] fluorine or methyl ether;

R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

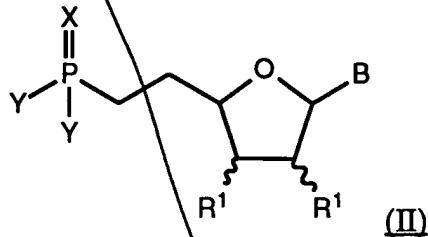
each Y is independently OR<sup>2</sup>, N(R<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>[.] or SR<sup>2</sup> wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is oxygen or sulfur

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

*S*

38. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



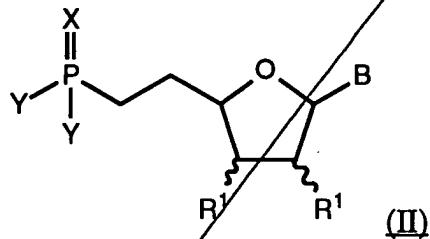
(II)

*BS*  
and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

each R<sup>1</sup> is independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;  
each Y is independently [OR<sup>2</sup>,] N(R<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>[,] or SR<sup>2</sup> wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is  
independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and  
X is oxygen or sulfur.

Cancel claim 39.

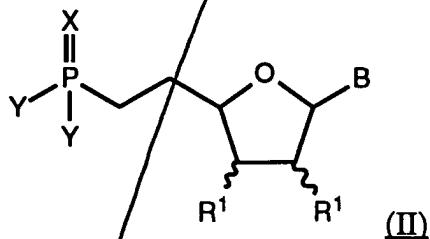
40. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



*BS b*  
and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;  
[each] R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is [hydroxyl,] fluorine or methyl ether; [and]  
R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;  
each Y is independently OR<sup>2</sup>, N(R<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, or SR<sup>2</sup> wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is  
independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and  
X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

*Sue C6*  
41. (amended) A compound of formula (II):

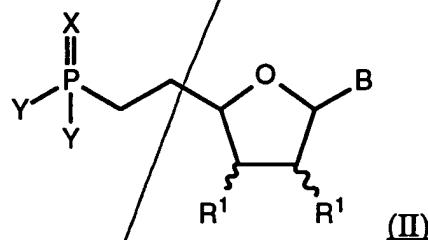


and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is 5-iodouracil, thymine, guanine, 8-hydroxy-N<sup>6</sup>-methyladenine, aziridinylcytosine, 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine;

[each] R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether; [and]  
R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;  
each Y is independently OR<sup>2</sup>, N(R<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, or SR<sup>2</sup> wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is  
[independently] hydrogen; and  
X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

42. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



(II)

and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is N<sup>2</sup>-isobutyrylguanine, N<sup>4</sup>-benzoylcytosine, [N<sup>6</sup>-benzoyladenine] or N<sup>3</sup>-benzylthymine;

[each] R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is hydroxyl and R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;

each Y is independently OR<sup>2</sup>, N(R<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, or SR<sup>2</sup> wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

B7

Please add the following new claims.

--43. The compound of claim 38 wherein X is oxygen and R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen.

44. The compound of claim 43 wherein B is guanine, adenine, cytosine, uracil, 5-fluorouracil, 5-iodouracil, thymine, 8-hydroxy-N<sup>6</sup>-methyladenine, aziridinylcytosine, 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine.

45. The compound of claim 40 wherein X is oxygen.